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☐	L2	L1 and 4Kb	0
☐	L3	09/877748 and greater	1
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☐	L5	WO 9632500	4
☐	L6	L5 and (mitochondrial DNA or mt-DNA)	1
☐	L7	L4 and (mitochondrial DNA or mt-DNA)	0
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☐	L14	L13 and ((mutation or deletion) near (kb or kilobase))	16
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END OF SEARCH HISTORY

Detection of the ageing-associated 5-Kb common **deletion** of **mitochondrial DNA** in blood and bone marrow of hematologically normal adults. Absence of the **deletion** in clonal bone marrow disorders.

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AB In recent years, a variety of chronic degenerative diseases that mainly involve brain, heart and muscle have been shown to result from mutations in **mitochondrial DNA** (mtDNA). A 4977-bp **deletion** (mtDNA-4977, also known as the common **deletion**) is the most frequent abnormality in patients with mitochondrial myopathies. A low percentage of mtDNA-4977 is also found in various tissues of normal ageing individuals. Accumulation of this **deletion** as well as other mtDNA **deletions** and point mutations is thought to contribute to normal cell ageing. We examined blood and bone marrow samples of 63 hematologically normal patients undergoing sternotomy for cardiac surgery. Using **short**-cycle **PCR**, which favors the **amplification** of molecules carrying large **deletions**, we detected the common **deletion** in 22 (35%) of the patients. In one of the probands, a hitherto unknown 4867-bp **deletion** was identified (nt 8561-13429). In each sample the percentage of mtDNA-4977 was very low, since detection always required primer-shift reamplification of a primary PCR product. Because mtDNA molecules with large **deletions** are known to be progressively enriched through their tendency to replicate more rapidly than full-size mtDNA, the small amount of mtDNA-4977 detected is likely to be concentrated in a small fraction of cells. The common **deletion** was not detectable in 20 patients with myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), 20 patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML), and 10 patients with chronic myeloid leukemia (CML). The seeming

Reference Needed